

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS: WALDHEIM ASKS US INTERVENTION

UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM TOLD CHARGE MEEHAN APRIL 1 THAT THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA WERE GOING BADLY. WALDHEIM SAID NEITHER SIDE WAS WILLING TO DO MORE THAN PUT ITS PROPOSALS ON THE TABLE AND ADHERE TO THEM STUBBORNLY. HE WANTED THE US TO KNOW THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED, ANGRY AND NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT "THIS SAME OLD GAME BEING PLAYED AGAIN."

WALDHEIM SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY UPSET BY TURKISH NEGOTIA-
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TOR ONAN'S APPARENT LACK OF AUTHORITY EVEN TO COMMENT ON THE GREEK CYPRIOTS' DETAILED MAP PROPOSALS. HE WONDERED IF THE US COULD PRESSURE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO INSTRUCT ONAN TO RESPOND CONCRETELY ON THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE. WHILE WALDHEIM SAID HE PLANNED TO LEAVE VIENNA AT NOON APRIL 2, HE WOULD PUT OFF HIS DEPARTURE UNTIL APRIL 4 IF THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS BY THEN. (CONFIDENTIAL)

VIENNA 2594, 4/1.)

2. MOBUTU: BELLING THE CAT

EMBASSY KINSHASA SEES MOUNTING INDICATIONS OF POPULAR AND ELITE FEELING IN ZAIRE THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU MUST GO. MODERATE REFORMIST ELEMENTS WHO RALLIED AROUND MOBUTU WHEN THE INVADERS FIRST STRUCK AT SHABA NOW APPEAR TO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IF HE IS TO AVOID A VIOLENT OVERTHROW LEADING TO CHAOS AND EVENTUAL RADICAL CONTROL HE MUST QUICKLY STEP DOWN AND TURN POLITICAL POWER OVER TO A CREDIBLE PRIME MINISTER (PREFERABLY FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA) WHO CAN RALLY THE POPULATION, NEGOTIATE WITH THE INVADERS AND PIECE BACK TOGETHER A VIABLE COUNTRY.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS MODERATE REFORMIST GROUP HAVE URGED THE US TO SEND A SPECIAL ENVOY TO TELL MOBUTU THAT IT IS TIME TO STEP DOWN. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY MADE CLEAR THAT THE US WAS NOT PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A ROLE. ITS ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE REFORMISTS ARE CLINGING TO THE HOPE THAT "SOMEONE ELSE" WILL REMOVE MOBUTU BEFORE THE SITUATION DETERIORATES FURTHER.

THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT UNLESS MOBUTU STEPS DOWN NOW, HIS OVERTHROW IS HIGHLY LIKELY. ITS OWN VIEW OF THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO AVOID THIS ENTAILS:

--MOBUTU'S AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ACTIVE POLITICS, PERHAPS BECOMING A TITULAR HEAD OF STATE;

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--REMOVAL OF MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY AND OTHER BLATANTLY CORRUPT FIGURES FROM KEY POSITIONS IN THE ECONOMY;

--A PRIME MINISTER OR INTERIM COUNCIL ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH BOTH THE KATANGA GENDARMES AND ANGOLA;

--ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORM;

--CONTROL OF THE ARMY; AND

--CONTINUING, FIRM WESTERN SUPPORT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT MOBUTU WILL PRECIPITATE THIS SCENARIO, NOR WILL A FOREIGN POWER SUGGEST IT TO HIM. MOST CRITICALLY, WE THINK THE REFORMERS LACK THE COURAGE TO MAKE A MOVE FOR ORDERLY CHANGE. WE CONCLUDE, RELUCTANTLY, THAT VIOLENT CHANGE IS IN THE CARDS -- AND BOTH US AND ZAIRE'S INTERESTS WILL SUFFER. (SECRET) KINSHASA 3038

(EXDIS), 4/1.)

3. SADAT VISIT TO FRG

THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE BRIEFED EMBASSY BONN ON SADAT'S VISIT TO THE FRG. SADAT DID NOT CONDUCT ANY DETAILED BUSINESS DURING HIS VISIT BUT SAID THAT HE:

--HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE US AND WAS OPTIMISTIC-ALLY IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST;

--INTENDS TO SUGGEST DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON THAT THE US TAKE UP CONTACTS WITH THE PALESTINIANS AND IF POSSIBLE BEGIN A DIALOGUE WITH ARAFAT;

--VIEWS AS A POSITIVE SIGN THE US DECISION TO DENY
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CONCUSSION BOMBS TO ISRAEL;

--FAVORS A LINK BETWEEN JORDAN AND A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND ON THE WEST BANK, "BE IT A FEDERATION, CONFEDERATION OR A UNITED ARAB STATE;" AND

--OPPOSES A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION TO GENEVA BECAUSE HE WOULD LOSE HIS FREEDOM OF ACTION. (SECRET) BONN 5846 (EXDIS), 4/1.)

4. KENYATTA'S HEALTH FAILING

FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI HAS CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY NAIROBI THAT PRESIDENT KENYATTA'S HEALTH HAS BEEN UNSTABLE FOR THE PAST MONTH. WAIYAKI TOLD AMBASSADOR MARSHALL THAT KENYATTA'S MENTAL ACUITY VARIES GREATLY FROM DAY TO DAY, AND ADDED THAT HE, KENYATTA'S PERMANENT SECRETARY, AND ATTORNEY GENERAL NJONJO ARE CURRENTLY "RUNNING THE COUNTRY."

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: KENYATTA HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO PRESENCE AT THE KANU NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS ON APRIL 3 IN NAIROBI. SHOULD HE BE UNABLE TO ATTEND, SOME OF THE VALUE OF THAT ELECTION IN ENSURING A STABLE TRANSITION WILL BE LOST. (CONFIDENTIAL) NAIROBI 4064, 3/31.)
CHRISTOPHER

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